

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 06563

BELGRADE FOR USDEL CSCE

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EEC, CSCE
SUBJ: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, JUNE 21,
1977:CSCE

REFS: (A) EC BRUSSELS 5256; (B) LONDON 8689; (C)
BRUSSELS 6168; (D) BELGRADE 4069

1. DURING THEIR JUNE 21 COUNCIL MEETING, THE EC FOREIGN
MINISTERS DISCUSSED THE BREAKDOWN OF THE FORMULA FOR A
DUAL NAME PLATE FOR THE COUNCIL PRESIDENCY DELEGATION IN
BELGRADE AGREED AT THE MAY 22 LEEDS CASTLE MEETING
(REFTELS A AND B). ACCORDING TO COUNCIL AND PERM REP
SOURCES, THE GERMANS, DUTCH, IRISH, AND BELGIANS WERE
PARTICULARLY CRITICAL OF THE WORKING-LEVEL DECISION TO
STOP PUSHING FOR THE LEEDS FORMULA AND TO REST ON THE
JUNE 16 DECLARATION BY UK DELEGATE CONCERNING THE EC
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ROLE IN THE CONFERENCE (REFTELS C AND D), IRISH
FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD SCORNFULLY TERMED THE UK
DECLARATION AS "THE ONLY ORAL PLACARD IN HISTORY."

2. ACCORDING TO COUNCIL AND PERM REP SOURCES, BELGIAN
FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONNET PROPOSED THAT HIS DELEGATION
IN BELGRADE SHOULD START USING A HOMEMADE SIGN ON

JULY 1 (WHEN BELGIUM ASSUMES THE COUNCIL PRESIDENCY); BUT UK FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN (THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT) OBJECTED ON THE BASIS THAT THE UK WOULD BE MADE TO LOOK TIMID IN RETROSPECT AND THAT SUCH A PLOY COULD DISRUPT THE PROCEEDINGS. OWEN WAS STRONGLY BACKED BY THE DANES AND THE FRENCH ON THIS LATTER POINT. A COMMISSION SOURCE HAS COMMENTED TO US THAT THE UK DELEGATION ACTUALLY TOOK ITS OWN SIGN TO BELGRADE BUT WAS TALKED OUT OF USING IT BY "OTHER" MEMBER STATES.

3. ACCORDING TO COUNCIL AND BELGIAN PERM REP OFFICIALS, THE MINISTERS AGREED ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS: (1) THE PRESIDENCY MEMBER STATE WILL CONTINUE TO INSIST ON THE RIGHT TO CIRCULATE DOCUMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE EC; (2) THE PRESIDENCY WILL YIELD THE FLOOR TO COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVES AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE WHEN MATTERS OF EC COMPETENCE ARE BEING DISCUSSED; AND (3) THE EC WILL SEEK TO PRESENT THE DUAL NAME PLATE FORMULA AS A FAIT ACCOMPLI TO THE OCTOBER BELGRADE MEETING. A COMMISSION SOURCE HAS TOLD US THAT THE STRATEGY FOR ACHIEVING THIS LAST OBJECTIVE HAS NOT YET BEEN ADDRESSED. MORRIS

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